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FRANK L. HOOFSMANAGER

WEDNESDAYMAY 1, 1907

Our Very Best Legislature

Today is the last day of the regular session of the fourth and best legislature the Territory of Hawaii has ever had. Such is the opinion of it that seems to be generally held, and there are actual statistics to prove the claim.

The first legislature was in session 120 days, passed 22 measures, besides the appropriation bills, and cost \$92,000. The second legislature was in session 90 days, passed 63 measures besides the appropriation bills, and cost \$83,000. The third legislature was in session 82 days, passed 103 measures besides the appropriation bills, and cost \$67,000. This, the fourth legislature, has been in session 60 days, has passed 114 measures, and has cost about \$35,000.

On the basis of these figures there has been a steady improvement in the quality of our legislatures since the first or Banderlog. But what is more satisfactory than even such comparative figures as the several sessions can present, is the fact that in connection with the session which closes today there has never been the least suspicion or taint of graft or scandal. There are probably few legislative sessions throughout the broad area of the United States, of which this can be said. From the very beginning, in both houses, there was a universal determination to keep down the expenses of the session to figures that would be entirely justified. There was none of the scramble to create position for the mere purpose of having an excuse to pay salaries out of the public treasury, which has distinguished other sessions, and which it may be said in passing, have distinguished legislatures in other states and territories.

The number of measures passed by a legislature is not always a test of its value or effectiveness. For the killing of bad measures is often as valuable service as the passing of good ones. But in the session that has just passed there were very few really "bad" measures, introduced—bad measures, that is, in the sense of measures introduced for an evil purpose or by indirectness to effect something objectionable that could not be hoped to be attained by direct means.

While this legislature is not distinguished by any great piece of legislation such as the County Act which stands to the credit of the legislature of 1905, unless indeed the municipal bill is to be ranked with it, it has a great deal of useful legislation to its credit. There has been much work done in the way of making more symmetrical and better balanced our civil and penal codes, and a good deal of legislation has been accomplished for the purpose of correcting and improving court procedure and methods, which will require the test of time before it can be said with absolute certainty that it has accomplished its purpose.

This legislature also has to its credit the scalps of a number of measures which if enacted would have been important but of doubtful utility. Like every legislature, also, it has failed to pass some legislation that to many was exceedingly desirable.

On the whole, however, there is every reason to feel that this legislature deserves the characterization it has received—The Best Legislature the Territory of Hawaii ever had.

"Our War With Japan"

Pearson's Magazine for May has for its leading article, one entitled "Our War With Japan: A brief History of Events ending with March 1917." It is by Atherton Brownell, and being well written and making skilful use of prognostications and suggestions of possibilities which have been widely discussed, it is a most interesting article.

It assumes the election of Roosevelt for a third term in 1908, defeating William Randolph Hearst, and utterly destroying the Democratic party. Roosevelt's candidate, Senator Beveridge of Indiana, is defeated in 1912 by Michael McMurphy, a labor leader of San Francisco.

Meanwhile throughout all these years Japan had been building up her navy. She had developed the wheat fields of Manchuria and Korea, countries over which she exercised a paramount influence. She had built great flour mills in Japan, using the most approved American appliances. Materially, and in a military and naval way, she had been preparing for a conflict with America.

America, on the other hand, while developing her navy to some extent, had left the Philippines only partly fortified, had only begun to fortify Hawaii, and had done little to fortify the Pacific coast. The anti-Japanese feeling of California had spread and become much intensified when it was discovered that Japan was underselling us in flour in our own markets. This led to an increase of the duties on wheat and flour as a retaliatory measure, and finally to an act excluding the Japanese. This created anti-American riots in Japan, and some of our war vessels in the Philippines were sent to Japan to protect American interests. There, without any declaration of war, they were attacked by a vastly superior force of Japanese war ships and sunk. Almost simultaneously, a big fleet of American war ships passing through the Panama canal were destroyed by the destruction of the locks; while only a few days later a formidable Japanese fleet appeared off Oahu, engaged the smaller American squadron there, while land forces of 30,000 organized from among the Japanese veterans in the Islands attacked the uncompleted Pearl Harbor fortifications and captured them.

Meanwhile the remaining American vessels in the Philippines had been bottled up there. These events gave Japan the control of the Pacific, the occupation of the Philippines and Hawaii. It made it impossible to carry the war into the far east for want of an adequate navy, transports, and above all coaling bases.

The Japanese in control of Hawaii, menaced the Pacific coast and finally led them to attack Monterey with a naval force vastly superior to any the American could muster to oppose them, and backed by an immense transport fleet with land forces to make a landing. But by this time coast defense had been greatly improved, and with these and the fleet, the Americans were able to repulse the Japanese and destroy a considerable part of the attacking fleet, the first repulse the Japanese had suffered since the beginning of the war.

A vivid description of the Battle of Pearl Harbor is given, though it is in very general terms.

On the whole the article is interesting if it is not very convincing. It has an added interest here because Hawaii figures extensively in the story.

It seems that rapacious tradersmen these people wanted the money that delayed the sailing of Jack London was due them, and had the effrontery and the Snark. Strangely enough, to libel the Snark in order to get it.

UNCONSCIOUS JOKER IN THE ELECTION ACT

ACHI DISCOVERS IT WOULD HAVE EXTENDED TERMS OF PRESENT COUNTY OFFICIALS TWO YEARS.

The House did a wiser thing than it knew when it killed Senator McCarthy's election bill yesterday afternoon. If that measure had become law it would have resulted in the present County officials holding office for two years more, or a total of four years.

Under the act no provision was made for the County nominees filing their nomination papers with the proper officials so that their names could be put on the official ballot. It seems strange that this little joker got past everybody, but it did. The bill was passed by both houses, then vetoed by the Governor and passed over his veto by the Senate, but killed in the House; yet none of the debates or the discussions of various committees to whom the measure was referred intimated that the error had been detected. It was reserved for W. C.ACHI to discover the mistake and to call attention to it. However, the measure is now dead, so the danger that threatened the public is past.

ALAMEDA AND SONOMA RACE TO THE COAST

SONOMA EXPECTS TO MAKE BETTER TIME THOUGH ALAMEDA MAY MAKE PORT FIRST.

There will be a race to San Francisco from Honolulu between the O. S. S. Alameda which sailed this morning at 10 o'clock and the O. S. S. Sonoma which sails at 5 o'clock this afternoon. The Alameda will probably make port first, but the Sonoma, according to her chief, will make better time.

The Sonoma this morning arrived from Sydney, Auckland and Pago Pago docking at the Oceanic wharf at 8:10 o'clock, the Alameda shifting to the foot of Fort street to make room for the boat from the Colonies.

Owing to the quarantine no passenger going through was allowed ashore without a pass permitting him to go ashore and to return. Should a passenger lose his pass once ashore he may find himself unable to return to the vessel.

Passengers for Honolulu are Mrs. Mary Stuart and two children and J. E. Phythian. The through list is large. Imports include 20 ribs beef, 25 carcasses lamb, 400 carcasses mutton, 118 cases butter, 100 cases onions and 6 cases of merchandise from Sydney and Auckland. From Pago Pago there were four cases of onions.

TEN YEARS MASTER AND NOW PLAYS BABY

SLAPPED HIS WIFE WITH A BEEFSTEAK AND CAUGHT HER SCISSORS IN HIS CALE.

For ten years, more or less, according to the neighbors, a man indicted by the Federal grand jury has caused tears to flow at home. The other night he went home and slapped his wife in the face with a porterhouse steak. It hurt and she threw the scissars at his legs, the point scratching his calf; whereupon he cried like a baby and arousing the neighborhood, said his wife had stabbed.

The man who never has been ashamed of himself has nothing of which to be proud.

Still they got it.

The cable some days ago brought news of a disastrous typhoon in the Carolines. Fuller advices say it occurred on Good Friday, March 29 and that 230 of the 300 natives of the Ulithi group were drowned, that the coconut trees were destroyed and that famine threatens. The steamer Planet of the German navy and the steamer Germania of the Jaluit company proceeded to the islands and taking food and help. It is proposed to bring as many of the suffering natives as possible to the Ladrone and Pelew Islands. Hawaii has in the past had very close missionary interests in these groups.

The 295 Japanese who went up on the last voyage of the Korea to San Francisco, en route to Canada, after being detained and examined in San Francisco were allowed to proceed. They deny that it is their intention to come back into the United States from

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Canada, although they were allowed to proceed, not because of these declarations but because of their right to proceed.

Well, Honolulu will soon have a Mayor!

The Governor fooled all the political prophets by signing the Municipal bill.

The present legislature has been so good that there does not seem to be any objection to giving legislatures a little more time hereafter, and legislators a little more money. Some of them are said to need it.

The House has its work so well up that it has been doing little more than marking time, waiting for the end of the session, for the past two days.

WING SHOTS.

(From the St Paul Dispatch.)

The decision on the Great Northern

stock issue has had a wonderfully encouraging effect in some quarters.

That glut of bills in the legislature does not grieve the member who has introduced a few to show his good intentions and let them die.

Getting religion is like getting in love—you don't want a crowd around when you get it.

Feed on garbage and you soon lose your faith in good things

The beauty of life comes from God's sun shining on our sorrow.

PROOF POSITIVE.
Greening—"Baldwin is a victim of superstition."
Browning—"How do you know?"
Greening—"He refused to lend me \$13 last Friday."

AS TO SKELETONS.

His Wife—"They say that the family next door have a skeleton in their closet."

Her Husband—"Well, that is better than letting it run around loose."

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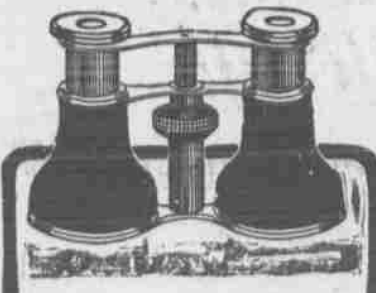
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